

# OLRFC



Saturday, November 11, 2017 | Old Leamingtonians Vs Alcester RFC | 2.15pm KO



Photography courtesy of Tim Nunan

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# WELCOME

## Welcome to the Crofts, home of Old Leamingtonians RFC, on this our Patron's Lunch day.

I would also like to welcome to the players, management, coaches and supporters of Alcester, our opponents today. They are newly promoted this season, so, in the true spirit of rugby, we wish them every success with the obvious exception of today.

This is the second edition of our new format and greatly expanded programme which was well received at the last home game. We hope to continue bringing you results, updates and club information through this medium. Looking at Gaz Nash's excellent cover, please note that with the clocks going back all future games will kick off at 2:15 pm until the spring. Can I also take this opportunity to acknowledge the contribution of photographer Tim Nunan who keeps us supplied with excellent pictorial coverage for us here and on Facebook.

Last week saw our annual Firework display, which was a great success. It is gratifying to see the whole club pull together in supporting a community event. I would like to thank all the members of the committee, the wider club and its sections and especially Bert Payne and Sally Hemming for their time and effort in preparing and delivering a superb family occasion and a great moment in the club calendar.

We also hosted a mini and junior tournament for over 600 players at the end of October. My thanks to Lucas Wager and his team who managed the logistics of this huge event extremely smoothly and showed the club in a very favourable light to our neighbours. Over 50 teams were in attendance from all over the county, as well as players from Worcester Warriors mixing with the lads and lasses.

You will see elsewhere in this programme news from the Ladies and Colts sections. We hope that last weeks committed display (that lasted for 90 minutes) can continue for today's match. The joy of all sport is that you get a chance to improve every game and I know the team will be looking to show their skills and commitment today.

So, on with the game. I hope the Patron's enjoy their food (and drink) and have a great day topped off with a win. Thank you for your support today and please take it to the touchline for all the players. Please respect the officials in the true OL rugby spirit and follow me to the bar (again) for a drink afterwards.

**Phil Eales Chairman**

**BM**

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# MATCH REPORTS

League: Midlands 3 West (South)

Fixture: Upton on Severn RFC 1st XV v Old Leamingtonians RFC 1st XV

Venue: Upton on Severn

Result: Upton on Severn RFC 1st XV 21 - 24 Old Leamingtonians RFC 1st XV



Old Leamingtonians returned to winning form with a hard earned victory over a determined Upton side that saw the scores fluctuate throughout the match. The match began with Upton defending against a strong wind and bright sun but after 25 minutes of play it was the home side that took the lead when a series of poor defensive tackles resulted in a try that was converted. From the kick off OLs took the game back to Upton and with the pack winning good loose ball the game switched out through the OLs backs to winger Liam Wellings who evaded the Upton defence to cross the line for a well taken try. The try was converted by Mark Foley to bring the scores level.

OLs game plan was to get the ball out to the backs whenever possible and this strategy was rewarded five minutes later when opposite winger Ciaran O'Connor was fed the ball quickly to enable him to run in a well taken try powering through a number of desperate tackles by the defending three-quarters. This try was again converted by Mark Foley. Upton then created a number of forward drives towards the OLs goal line and when an OL defender infringed just short of the goal line the referee awarded a penalty try to bring the first half to an end with the scores level at 14 all.

The second half saw OLs defending against the wind and lowering sun in their faces which was causing problems with Upton using the elements well and despite both teams creating chances, good defensive work by both sides kept the scores level until another series of defensive blunders allowed Upton to score

a third converted try. OLs then began to exert more pressure. The game flowed back towards the Upton 22 metre area and after a series of pick and go moves, John Carlos crashed through to touch down. The conversion was pushed wide leaving OLs with a two point deficit and twenty minutes left to play. OLs continued their game plan of quick ball along the three-quarters and Upton were severely tested. It was only solid defence that thwarted a number of good OL moves but the game plan eventually paid off when winger Liam Wellings again outstripped the retreating Upton defense to touch down. The conversion attempt by Ciaran O'Connor was also pushed wide but OLs had moved into a decisive three point lead.

The final minutes of play were concentrated inside the OLs 22 metre area but OLs defence was equal to every move Upton tried. OLs conceded a number of penalties during the last five minutes of play but while Upton could have levelled the score each time with a kick at goal, they went for touch and OLs defence was a match for every catch and drive they tried. In the end it was an infringement by Upton that brought the match to a close with OLs coming out on top with a five point win (including the four try bonus point). Upton only managed a "points difference" losing bonus point.

\*\*\*\*\*

OLs winning weekend climaxed with a spectacular bonfire and firework display on Sunday (the best in Leamington). Families from all over the community gathered at The Crofts for a special night to crown a special weekend. (photo attached)

People of all ages braved the cold for the event and warmed themselves in front of the traditional gigantic bonfire before enjoying the spectacular thirty-minute pyrotechnic display. The youngsters were kept entertained with sparklers and glow sticks and food and a well-stocked bar catered for the grown-ups who enjoyed the clubs hospitality and as always a great atmosphere.

**Report provided by Den Fisher**

**League tables can be found on the OLRFC website, [www.olrfc.co.uk](http://www.olrfc.co.uk)**

# MATCH REPORTS

League: Women's Championship Midlands 2

Fixture: Bletchley Ladies 1st XV v Old Leamingtonians Ladies 1st XV

Venue: Manor Fields

Result: Bletchley Ladies 1st XV 38 - 27 Old Leamingtonians Ladies 1st XV



This weekend saw Old Leams ladies travelling away to Bletchley. After a hard fought battle with only 16 players OLs unfortunately suffered their second defeat of the season with a score of 38-21 to Bletchley.

Old Leams started off strong with second row Charlie Stephens stealing a Bletchley ball from a ruck and proceeded to power through the shambled defence of a shocked Bletchley, scrum half Ffion Davies-Cale brought in the extra 2 points with a successful conversion.

Unhappy about being caught off guard Bletchley used their backs after a heavy attack to eventually evade OLs defence and bring in their first try of the match.

Captain Jen Vermeulen took advantage of a penalty awarded to OLs taking a quick tap and shooting through an unprepared Bletchley scoring OLs second try of the match, Davies-Cale brought in another successful conversion.

After a long battle of back and fourths with both teams showing impressive skill and fierce attacks, Bletchley eventually managed to bring in the final try of the first half, bringing the half time score to 14-12 to Old Leamingtonian Ladies.

The beginning of the second half had Bletchley scoring an early try after a strong wave of attack from their forwards. Soon after Bletchley's back line got lucky with Bletchley's number 12 intercepting the ball and was met with a clear run to the try line for the second try of the second half.

Breaking Bletchley's scoring streak Flanker, Leah Heath, scored OLs third try of the match, after a quick tap penalty the ball found its way to Heath where she was able to break through the line and score – Davies-Cale showed her skills at converting with another successful kick to bring in the precious extra points.

Another two tries from Bletchley spurred Old Leams into a vicious attack where they found themselves camped in Bletchley's 22 for a long while, however this wasn't enough as the final whistle was blown and ending the hard fought game, with the final score standing at 38-27 to Bletchley.

Forward of the match: Charlie Stephens

Back of the match: Hannah Trenholm

**Report provided by Mikala Raines**

**League tables can be found on the OLRFC website, [www.olrfc.co.uk](http://www.olrfc.co.uk)**



# SECTION NEWS



## News from the Colts Section:

The season sees the Colts arrive in November having made a fantastic start being unbeaten in pre-season warm-up matches, and the league fixtures which came thick and fast from the beginning of September. A large squad has made selection a headache on occasion, but a nice problem for Head Coach Dicky Davies to have!

An early win at last year's double winners Broadstreet was followed by the only blemish on our 100% record, a home draw with Old Coventrians, 17 points each. Two straightforward league wins over Rugby St Andrews and Stratford were matched by good victories in friendlies at home to Long Buckby and, especially, away at mighty Hinckley.

Bragging rights were earned with a narrow 10 – 3 win at Leamington, this was followed by a scrappy win against Earlsdon.

The end of October saw a tour weekend in Bath with plenty of fun and games on Friday and Saturday, followed by a splendid display of rugby at hosts Walcot OB RFC who were despatched 17 - 34.

The Colts returned to league action last week and having started slowly went through the gears to defeat Newbold 50 – 18.

OLs welcome second-placed Barkers Butts to The Crofts today in a top of the table match, looking to maintain their excellent start to the season.

**Dicky Davies**  
Head Coach Colts



## News from the Mini and Juniors Section:

OLs played host to one of the most triumphant minis festivals ever on 29th October 2017.

It has been a long standing tradition that our minis section become involved in festivals across the region, they are something the parents and players enjoy.

We held our Minis Festival with success that exceeded our own expectations!

9 clubs, 65 squads, 647 players and nearly 2,000 people, 154 games of rugby, with a total of 39 hours of rugby played, 1,000 hot dogs!

6 Worcester Warriors 1st Players and even Graham Rowntree made an appearance. To top it off the weather conditions were perfect.

The success of the festival came down to a fantastic team of volunteers and a great group of parents that all helped on the day.

The event was a testament to how united the Minis Section has become, willing to help, contribute and become involved in its activities and initiatives.

The quality of rugby was fantastic with a great spectrum of capability, the coaches also demonstrated resilience and great organisational skills, as last minute tweaks were made.

The festival is evident that OLs is capable of so much more, we are lucky to have great facilities, great coaches and an impressive support group.

Clubs have already heard about how well our festival was run and have asked if they could attend next Festival on October 7th 2018. Hold the date in your diaries now!

**Lucas Wager**  
Mini and Junior Chairman

# TODAY'S SQUADS DENSO Member of the TOYOTA Group

Today's referee is: Mr Chris Berwick

Club colours: Gold and Royal hoops

## OLD LEAMINGTONIANS COLTS XV

1 Josh Partridge

2 George Smith

3 Ollie Craig

4 Ed Gray

5 AJ Beesley

6 Nathan Chant

7 Bren Lumby

8 Thomas Wigham

9 Kai Bailey

10 William Davies

11 Jamie Reynolds

12 Alex Witchell

13 Jake Pettifer

14 Ceallach Welland

15 Callum Semple

## REPLACEMENTS

16 Jacob Sanneh

17 Daniel Sanneh

18 Jordan Lindsey

19 James Scott

20 Sam Brennan

21 Dylan Collinson

22 Warwick Syms-Golden

Head Coach: Dicky Davies

Assistant Coaches: Mark Edwards, Scott Craig

First Team Manager: Adrian Wigham, Damian Dixon

## BARKERS BUTTS COLTS XV

1 George Thompson

2 Jonny Jenkins

3 Rossi Bawuah

4 Zak Hill

5 Josh Arthur-Tandy

6 Josh Abbott

7 Rob Anderson

8 Charlie McCrum

9 Bailey Angliss

10 Harry Davey

11 Georgie Smith

12 Matt Coleman

13 Alex Jones

14 Jake Elliott

15 Andrew Wadley

## REPLACEMENTS

16 Charlie Neale

17 Kieran Moore

18 Matt Betts

19 Marcus Middleton

20 Jamahl Gaske-Clarke

# TODAY'S SQUADS

Today's referee is: Mr Kieran Bowerbank

Club colours: Gold and Royal hoops

## OLD LEAMINGTONIANS 1ST XV

- 1 Craig Ellis
- 2 Chris Huckvale
- 3 Reece Jones (c)
- 4 Hugh Melhuish
- 5 Joe Talamini
- 6 John Carlos
- 7 Felix Heath
- 8 Tom Smith
- 9 Toby Lord
- 10 Mark Foley
- 11 Ciaran O'Connor
- 12 Simon Hemming
- 13 Dave Canning
- 14 Liam Wellings
- 15 Tom Eales

## REPLACEMENTS

- 16 Kai Cott
- 17 Ollie Lewis
- 18 Sam Brittain

Chairman of Rugby:	Craig Ellis
First Team Manager:	Currently vacant
Coaches:	Scott Conduit, Adam Canning and Craig Ellis

## ALCESTER 1ST XV

- 1 Jason Richings
- 2 Tom Harris
- 3 Jack Horton (c)
- 4 Matt Johnson
- 5 George Green
- 6 Nigel Burrows
- 7 Matthew Alderman
- 8 Phil Birks
- 9 Dan Marcus
- 10 Josh O'Connor
- 11 Lewis Walker
- 12 Max Biltcliffe
- 13 Jack Green
- 14 Cian Allen
- 15 Frazer Jackson

## Replacements

- 16 Louis Smith
- 17 Ben Hope
- 18 Jake Grainger

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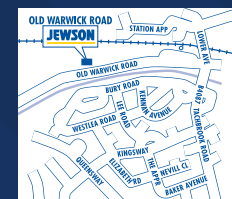


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# JEWSON

# PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

We welcome Alcester RFC to The Crofts today for what I believe will be the first league encounter between our respective clubs. I extend also a warm welcome to all our Patrons and their guests for the first of our lunches this season.

The Alcester club was formed in 1959 following the introduction of rugby as a sport at the local grammar school and thus they celebrated their Golden Jubilee in 2009. To mark this occasion the club produced a booklet of musings and contributions from those who had been associated with the club during that time. One of the contributors was Richard Wormell one of our own past Chairmen who captained the Alcester club in 1975. I have copied below some of his article from the 2009 booklet.

'Little did I realise that a Sunday pint in my local hostelry would have such a significant impact on my life. It was in the middle 60's when I was an officer in the Army Cadet Force and thoroughly enjoying my social hours away from the office helping to train young lads for their future in life. This particular Sunday I had been sports training and on my way home from Coventry I decided to stop at my local, the Black Swan in Henley in Arden, for a well deserved pint. In the bar was a tall, well-attired gentleman in a sports jacket, of pleasant disposition we soon engaged in conversation which took him to believe that as I was wearing a tracksuit I must be a sporting person and did this encompass the art of rugby, to which I replied, not since leaving school some 2 years previously. What followed was the well-known and renowned patter of Mike Perkins, and like many others before me I was soon caught in the 'spiders web' and had committed myself to turning out to play the following Saturday. Living in Henley in Arden I naively assumed I was playing for my local



town of Henley and when Mike announced the game was to be played in Alcester, my response to playing away and where the ground was, was corrected by Mike explaining that Henley did not have a rugby team and that I was playing for Alcester. From that Saturday the next 40 years have been beyond all expectations. Alcester rugby club epitomises everything that grass roots rugby, the community game stands for; enjoyment, passion, experiences and that great feeling of belonging and friendship. To arrive at Alcester that Saturday lunch time and walk in to the former chicken coop, 'the clubhouse', past a sunken bath and through that end door to the bar has given me 40 fantastic years of infectious warmth and friendship, extended to all who passed through that door.'

The rise of Alcester is founded on stalwart volunteers and is true of community clubs throughout the land including our own. Let those who play the game today not forget the dedication of such individuals in striving to provide the facilities and environment for rugby which are all too often taken for granted.

Whatever the result today I hope that everybody enjoys their day at the Crofts.

**Mike Hemming**  
**Old Leamingtonians President**



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